

REMARKS

Claims 76-92 are pending in the application and are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372. Claims 76, 78 and 92 have been amended and claims 77, 81-83, 90 and 91 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 93-100 have been added. Accordingly, claims 76, 78-80, 84-89 and 92-100 will be pending in the application upon entry of this paper.

Support for the claim amendments and additions can be found throughout the description and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Amendment and cancellation of the claims herein were done solely to conform the claims to the elected sequence (SEQ ID NO: 20, see below) and expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed, or similar claims, in this or one or more subsequent patent applications.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action alleges that the claims read on a plurality of patentably distinct peptides, that each of these peptides constitutes a single invention and that Applicants are required to elect a single peptide sequence.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20:

Ser Pro Glu Glu Leu Asn Arg Tyr Tyr Ala Ser Leu Arg His Tyr Leu Lys (Ile Lys Pro Glu Ala)
Leu Val Thr Arg Gln Arg Tyr

Applicants note that SEQ ID NO: 20 branches at the Lys (position 17). The branching sequence (SEQ ID NO: 23) is shown in parentheses and attaches to Lys before the parenthesis and to the C-terminus of the branching sequence.

Applicants have amended the claims to conform to the election of SEQ ID NO: 20. With regard to amended claims 78 and 92, SEQ ID NO: 2 falls within the definition of Z-A²²-A²³-A²⁴-A²⁵-A²⁶-A²⁷-A²⁸-A²⁹-A³⁰-A³¹-A³²-A³³-A³⁴-A³⁵-A³⁶ (with Z being present) recited in Formula I. Accordingly, Applicants have replaced that part of Formula I with SEQ ID NO: 20.

Applicants respectfully request early examination on the merits and allowance of the application with all claims presented herein. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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